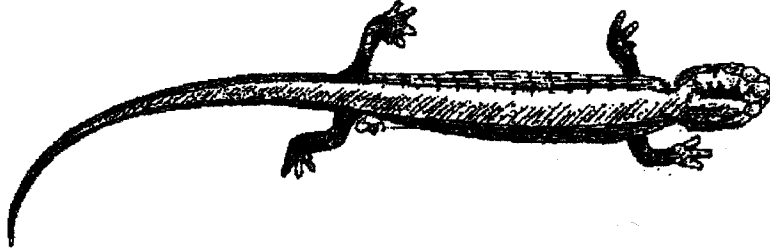


Del Norte Salamander

Plethodon elongatus
Family Plethodontidae



Global Rank: G3

State Rank: S2 (OR); S3 (CA)

Distribution: This species is found only in extreme southwestern Oregon (Curry and Coos Counties) and extreme northwestern California (Humboldt, Trinity, and Siskiyou Counties). Extends from near sea level to around 3,900 ft. (1,200 m.) in elevation.

Description: Adults reach 6 in. (15 cm.) in total length. They are a long-bodied, dark brown or black salamander, usually with 18 (occasionally 17-20) costal grooves, and short limbs. Toes are short and slightly webbed with coastal folds. The even-edged dorsal stripe is usually brown, reddish brown, or tan. Sides are sprinkled with white to light gray specks. The underside of the head has pale orange-yellow flecks. Young are sooty to nearly black above, or with a reddish brown or tan dorsal stripe. Adult males have a mental gland present.

Reproduction: Breeding probably occurs in the spring. Nests are in moist cavities in rock talus or under logs. About eight eggs are laid.



*Current range of the
Del Norte salamander*

They are tended by the females and hatch in the fall.

Food: It feeds on small invertebrates such as springtails, larval and adult beetles, some butterfly and moth larvae, leafhoppers, and millipedes.

Habits: Often found in rock rubble of old riverbeds, road fills, outcrops, and in moss-covered talus within humid coastal forests. It is occasionally found in decaying logs and under litter on the forest floor. Most common in old-growth Douglas-fir forests.

Management Implications: The species was previously a federal candidate species and state sensitive species in Oregon. It is possible that road construction which increases rock rubble may increase habitat for this species, as it retreats deep into rock crevices during hot, dry weather. Old growth forests may be important to its survival.

Important References: Stebbins, R.C. 1985. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. The Peterson Field Guide Series, Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, NY; Csuti, B., A.J. Kimerling, T.A. O'Neil, M.M. Shaughnessy, E.P. Gaines, and M.M.P. Huso. 1997. Atlas of Oregon wildlife. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, OR.